

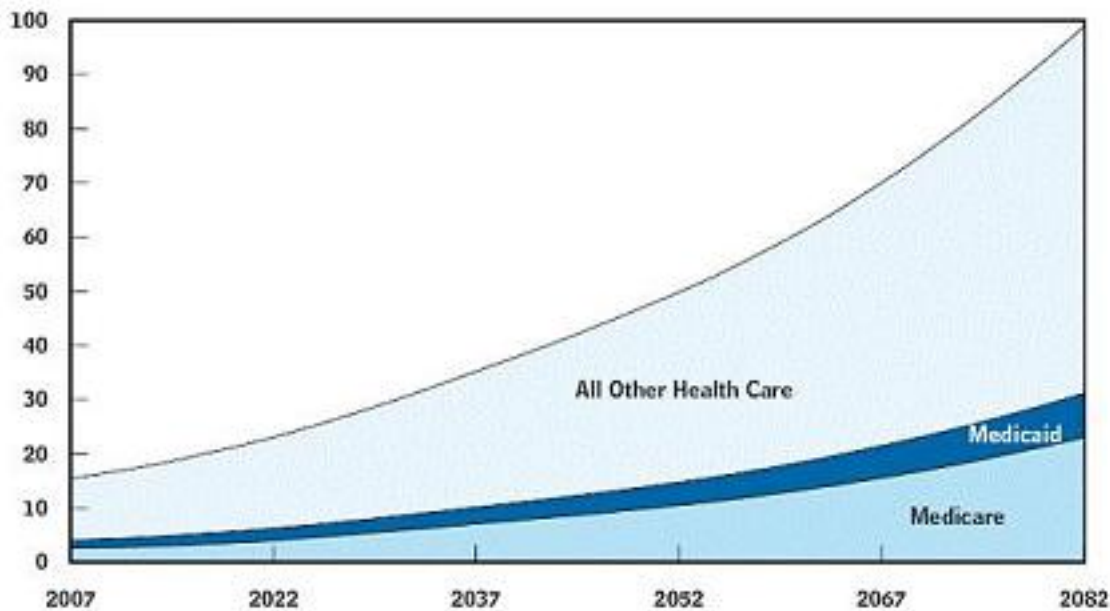
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Rising health care costs continue to wreak havoc with American family budgets and they play an enormous role in our impending fiscal crisis. These rising costs continue to price people out of the insurance market. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has stated that our total national healthcare spending will double over the next ten years and will soon account for more than 20% of our total economy. In part due to these skyrocketing costs, Medicare and Medicaid have become unsustainable. As part of a larger health reform package, we must reform these important safety net programs so they will remain viable for future generations.

Figure 4.**Projected Spending on Health Care Under an Assumption That Excess Cost Growth Continues at Historical Averages**

(Percentage of gross domestic product)



Source: Congressional Budget Office.